UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

WIND AND BRASS

University of Toronto Wind Symphony
Jeffrey Reynolds, conductor

Thursday, April 1, 2010
7:30 p.m. MacMillan Theatre
Edward Johnson Building

09|10
SEASON

University of Toronto Wind Symphony
Jeffrey Reynolds, conductor

PROGRAM

Recollections — **Norbert Palej** (b. 1977)
- Vigilance
- Game
- Prayer

Rhosymedre — **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958)

Images — **Howard Cable** (b. 1920)
- West Whiteface
- Meadow Springs
- Branding Corrals
- Rough Fescue
- South Chief

- INTERMISSION -

Resting in the Peace of His Hands — **John Gibson** (b. 1950)

Symphony no. 2 — **John Barnes Chance** (1932-1972)
- Sussurando - Energico
- Elevato
- Slancio

Thoughts of Love — **Arthur Pryor** (1870-1942)

Elburz Sorkhabi, trombone

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Program Notes

NORBERT PALEJ
Recollections

Originally from Cracow, Poland, Norbert Palej has been increasingly recognized for his "first-rate and genuinely original work" (American Composers Orchestra), and a musical language that generates "visceral excitement" (The Boston Globe). Palej has been Assistant Professor of Composition at the University of Toronto since 2008. He also serves as the director of the University of Toronto gamut ensemble, and as coordinator of the annual New Music Festival. He holds composition degrees from Cornell University (D.M.A.), The Juilliard School (M.M.), and the New England Conservatory (B.M.). He studied conducting at the Academy of Music in Cracow (Poland) and at The Juilliard School in New York, and is also an active concert pianist.

The term *Recollections* can be understood in at least two ways. On the most basic level, it means "memories". However, there is also the deeper and more constructive way to recollect than merely to reminisce or dwell on things past and gone: it is to "recollect oneself" – to rethink one's life and actions, and to collect and focus one's spirit. This piece depicts three different modes of recollection: through vigilance (being mentally restful yet alert), through play (enjoying the company of friends), and through prayer (contemplating the metaphysical).
- Michael Barth

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) is considered by many to be the most important English composer of his generation. He was educated at Charterhouse School and then at Trinity College, Cambridge, and later was a pupil of Stanford and Parry at the Royal College of Music. This was followed by studies with Max Bruch in Berlin and Maurice Ravel in Paris. Hardly a musical genre has been untouched by his extraordinarily productive musical career. He was also a collector of English folk music and song, which had a significant influence on his compositional approach.

In 1920 Vaughan Williams composed three preludes for organ based on Welsh hymn tunes, a set that quickly established itself in the organ repertoire. Of the three, *Rhosymedre*, sometimes known as *Lovely*, has become the most popular. The hymn tune used in this prelude was written by a 19th century Welsh composer, J.D. Edwards, for his *Original Sacred Music*, the first hymn book for use by the Anglican congregations in Wales. From this simple melody Vaughan Williams constructed a piece of grand proportions, with a broad arc that soars with the gradual rise of the tune itself.
- MB

HOWARD CABLE
Images

A leading figure in the musical life of Canada for over fifty years, Howard Cable has earned a distinct place in the world of music not only for his timeless compositions and arrangements, but also for the breadth of his influence and the span of his involvement in the music industry. He studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto with Sir Ernest MacMillan, Ettore Mazzoleni and Healey Willan, and his early years were spent in radio when he succeeded Percy Faith on the CBC in 1941. As a composer, arranger, and conductor he has enjoyed international success in radio, television, and on Broadway, and his familiarity with a broad range of repertoire has kept him in demand as a composer and arranger for numerous groups, resulting in the recording of his compositions and arrangements on many record labels and performances worldwide.

Images depicts several scenes from Alberta's McIntyre Ranch, one of the largest and oldest ranches in Canada. *West Whiteface* is steep-sided coulee with an elevation of 85 metres (275 feet), whose steep drop into a wide canyon was used as a buffalo jump by Native people before Europeans settled the land. *Meadow Springs* is a prime watering place on the Ranch. The watercourse is underground and the surface flow is contained in a pair of metal bound troughs. The water runs year round, 24 hours a day, and the overall flow of water on the Ranch is split by the Great Divide: on the north slope it flows eventually into Hudson Bay; on the south slope it flows eventually into the Gulf of Mexico. Two flutes imitate the sparkle and spray of the springs in the scherzo. In early June the branding of new calves takes place in the *Branding Corrals*. Branding days are a "come one, come all" type of celebration, and friends from far and near will be there for the festivities at the branding corral, ready for the hoedown. The most common plant type on the Ranch is rough fescue, and this movement features the French horn in a tranquil pastorale suggesting the serenity of the grasslands. *South Chief* is the field on the southwest edge of the Ranch, 30 kilometers from the Montana border. In the distance looking south and west is Chief Mountain in Glacier Park, Montana, a sacred place of the Blackfoot Nation. The themes of this movement evoke the majestic, noble, and mysterious appearance of Chief Mountain.
- MB

JOHN GIBSON
Resting in the Peace of His Hands

John Gibson is a native of Dallas, Texas. His catalogue of compositions includes works for band, orchestra, chorus, percussion ensemble and musical theatre. He holds degrees from Texas Tech and the University of North Texas, and has taught in the Amarillo public schools, the University of North Texas, the University of Arizona, McMurry University and Southern Methodist University. He has received commissions from symphony orchestras, university bands and percussion ensembles, the Texas Music Educators' Association, The Revelli Foundation for Bands of America, numerous high school and junior high school bands, churches and choral groups. He currently serves as resident composer for the Dallas Wind Symphony.

Based on a sculpture of the same name by German artist Kaethe Kollwitz (1867-1945), *Resting in the Peace of His Hands* expresses the remarkable sense of peace the composer felt upon viewing the sculpture for the first time. Kaethe Kollwitz was a significant German artist who lost her son in World War I and her grandson in World War II. She was highly respected among mainstream German artists, and has been called "the brightest German artist of the 20th century." This musical work is John Gibson's tribute to Kollwitz and her art.
- MB

JOHN BARNES CHANCE
Symphony no. 2

John Barnes Chance was born in Beaumont, Texas in 1932. He received Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Texas, where he studied with Clifton Williams, Kent Kennan, and Paul Pisk. Best known for his concert band works, many of Barnes' pieces were written for young musicians, particularly those written between 1960 and 1962, when he was composer-in-residence in the Greensboro, North Carolina public school system as part of the Ford Foundation Young Composers Project. Before he became a full-time composer, Chance played timpani with the Austin Symphony and later was an arranger for the Fourth and Eighth U.S. Army bands. Chance taught at the University of Kentucky from 1966 until his untimely death in 1972.

The Second Symphony has its origins in a 1962 agreement between Chance and his former teacher Clifton Williams, who agreed that each would write a work using the four-note motif C#-D-F-E. When Chance

sent a tape of part of his work to Williams, the latter gave up, and Chance turned to other endeavors. Later on in 1972, when the Northwest Music Center in North Dakota commissioned him to write a work dedicated to the Minot State College Wind Ensemble, he resurrected the earlier work and added to it, creating this symphony.
- MB

ARTHUR PRYOR
Thoughts of Love

Arthur Pryor was born in 1870 in St. Joseph, Missouri, and died in 1942 in Long Beach, California. He first took up music at a very young age and was playing the valve trombone by age eleven. Hailed as a prodigy, he mastered the slide trombone by the age of fifteen and was awarded a spot in his father's band. In 1892, John Philip Sousa hired Pryor as his solo trombonist, and later promoted him to assistant conductor. Pryor formed his own band in 1903, and toured extensively until 1909. During his career, Pryor wrote some of today's most famous trombone literature, including the heralded *Blue Bells of Scotland,* as well as band novelty works such as *The Whistler and His Dog*. Taking advantage of new recording technologies, Pryor made over one thousand recordings including several of his virtuoso compositions such as *The Patriot* and *The Blue Bells of Scotland*, and his brilliant waltzes, *Love's Enchantment* and *Thoughts of Love*. This performance features trombonist Elburz Sorkhabi, one of the winners of the Wind Concerto Competition.
- MB

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Biographies

Jeffrey Reynolds is Coordinator of Performance at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto and conductor of the Wind Symphony as well as instructor of trumpet and conducting. As a trumpeter he has performed and recorded with the Calgary Philharmonic, Hamilton Philharmonic, the Orchestra of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Hannaford Street Silver Band and the Stratford Festival Ensemble among others, as well as playing many theatre and commercial engagements. He regularly conducts student, community and professional ensembles, including the York Region Honour Band, and the Durham Schools Honour Band, as well as the Southampton Festival Winds and the Toronto Wind Orchestra. In 2007 he appeared as guest conductor at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic with the Oregon Symphonic Band. Jeffrey Reynolds received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, after degrees from York University, the University of Calgary and the University of Victoria. He is a founding member of the Canadian Wind Band Repertoire Project, and is active as a guest conductor, clinician, journal contributor and adjudicator across the country.

Elburz Sorkhabi is a young trombonist determined to put his art and instrument on the musical map. He has performed with several ensembles in Canada, such as Symphony Hamilton, Greater Toronto Philharmonic Orchestra, Musicfest National Concert Band, and many more. Elburz embraces any style tossed his way, having performed with the Juice Money Orchestra, and My Son the Hurricane.

Elburz received the National Arts Centre Award for Outstanding Brass Performer from Musicfest Canada after a solo performance in Frieman Hall, Ottawa, and performed solo recitals as a part of the Masters Artists Projects in Val d'Isere, France. Mr. Sorkhabi also composes and arranges, and he has been published under Eighth Note Publications.

Elburz is currently studying classical trombone performance with Jeffrey Hall, bass trombonist of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Born in 1990, Elburz moved around the world frequently during his childhood – from Ontario to British Columbia, to Los Angeles, to France, and back to Ontario! Elburz is an avid reader and writer, enjoys time with his friends and family, and loves the winter season!

University of Toronto Wind Symphony

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